PSC REF#:432420

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
RECEIVED: 03/11/2022 1:37:22 PM

BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION
For Fiscal Year 2022

Primary Applicant (Name and Address):	Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx. Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions. Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: **March 17, 2022** at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. **Late applications will not be accepted.**
Nextgen Communications, LLC d/b/a Nextgen Broadband 316 3rd Ave., PO Box 47 Clear Lake, WI 54005 715-263-2755	Contact for further information: PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov
	Date: December 1, 2021

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.

Applicant Certification: In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.

Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print)	Title	Phone ( )
Tim Kusilek	**General Manager**	**(715) 263-2755**
Signature of Authorized Representative	Date	
	3-11-22	

SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

Primary Applicant Name **Nextgen Communications, LLC.**	Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar) **$1,616,992.00**
Federal Employer Identification No. **39-1966979**	Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar) **$3,282,984.00**
Contact Name and Title **Tim Kusilek / General Manager**	Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar) **$4,899,976.00**
Telephone Number **(715) 263-2755**	Project Name **2022_FTTH_St Croix**
E-mail Address(es) **tim.kusilek@nextgen-broadband.net**	Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.) **FTTH**
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant **Same**	Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other) **Last-mile**
Grant Manager Contact Name **Tim Kusilek**	Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number **tim.kusilek@nextgen-broadband.net** **715-263-2755**
If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations **St Croix County - 1101 Carmichael Rd. Hudson WI. 54016** **Cylon Township - 2165 210th Ave. Deer Park, WI. 54007** **Emerald Township - 2432 County Road G, Emerald, WI. 54013** **Erin Prairie Township - 1952 County Road G New Richmond WI. 54017**	
Brief Project Description (2 sentences) **Provide Gigabit FTTP to 817 underserved locations of 3 townships in St Croix County**	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed **I Gigabit**	Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed **1 Gigabit**
Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location **100 Mbps**	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location **100 Mbps**
County or Counties served by this project **St Croix**	Community or Communities served by this project **Cylon Township** **Emerald Township** **Erin Prairie Township**
List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve **Frontier Communications** **CenturyLink**	

Does proposed project serve an *unserved* area of the State, as defined in Section 1.4 of the application instruction? (yes/no) **No**	Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no) **No**
For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access). **36 Business Locations**	For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access). **781 Residential Locations**
Of the improved business locations, how many locations are *unserved*? **0**	Of the improved residential locations, how many are *unserved*? **0**
For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no) **No**	Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no) **Yes - ACP**
Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no) **No**	Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing's Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no) **Yes**
Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission's voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2021? (yes/no) **Yes**	

FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application
Budget & Income Summary

Wisconsin Broadband Office

Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

Grant Summary

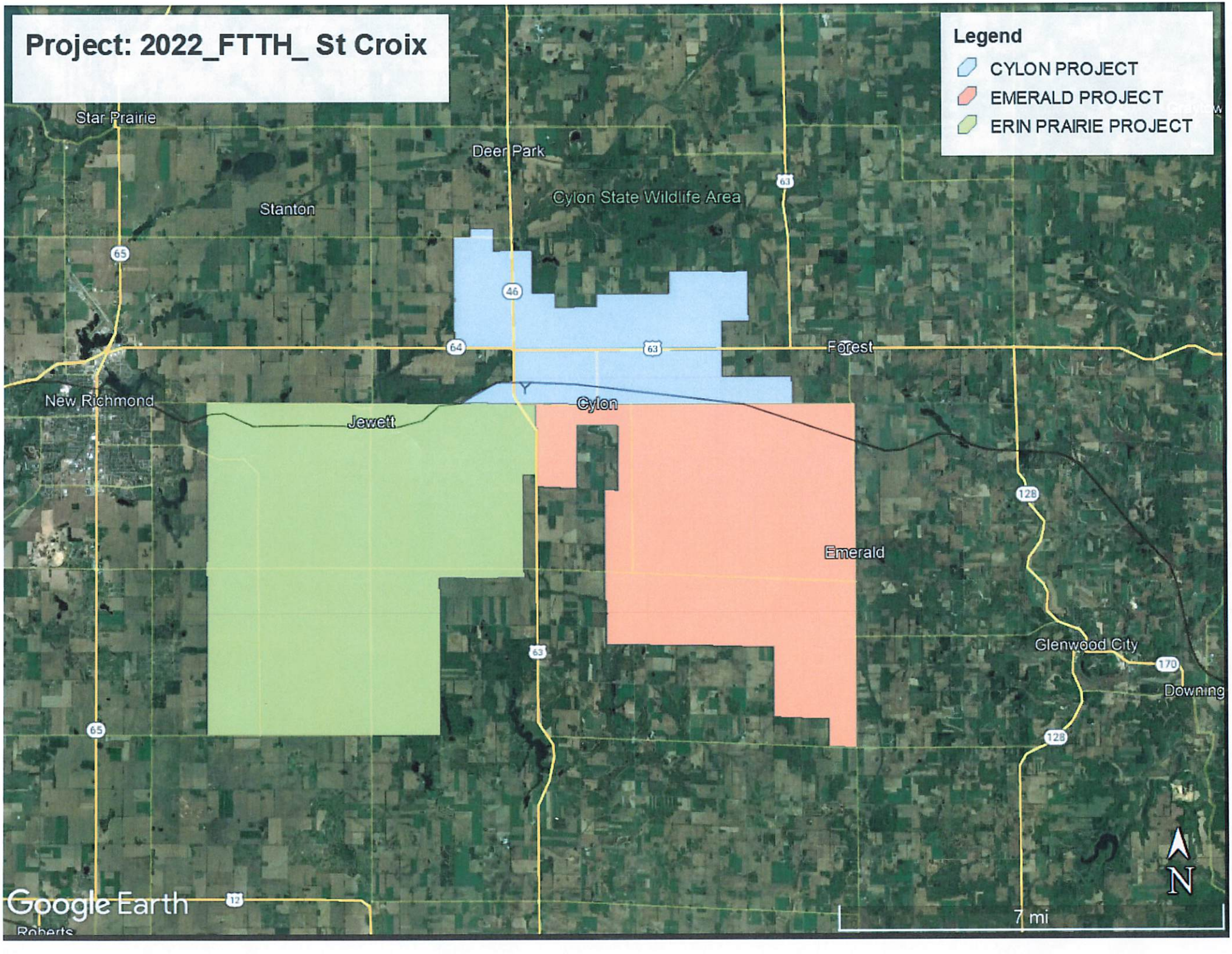
Grant Applicant: Nextgen Broadband	Project:
Nextgen Communications, LLC	2022_FTTH_ St Croix

Budget

Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	$ 982,056.00	$ 1,993,818.00	$ 2,975,874.00
2	Equipment	$ 81,657.00	$ 165,843.00	$ 247,500.00
3	Supplies	$ 474,079.00	$ 962,523.00	$ 1,436,602.00
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)	$ 79,200.00	$ 160,800.00	$ 240,000.00
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees			$ -
6	Travel			$ -
7	Other			$ -
	Total:	$ 1,616,992.00	$ 3,282,984.00	$ 4,899,976.00
		67.0% match requested		

Pledged Contributions

#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	Nextgen Broadband	Applicant	Cash	$ 2,144,415.00
2	St Croix County	Partner	Cash	$ 1,090,673.00
3	Cylon Township	Partner	Cash	$ 1,000.00
4	Emerald Township	Partner	Cash	$ 10,000.00
5	Erin Prairie Township	Partner	Cash	$ 36,896.00
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
			Total:	$ 3,282,984.00


Project: 2022_FTTH_ St Croix
Legend
CYLON PROJECT
EMERALD PROJECT
ERIN PRAIRIE PROJECT
Star Prairie
Deer Park
Cylon State Wildlife Area
Stanton
New Richmond
Jewett
Cylon
Forest
Emerald
Glenwood City
Downing
Roberts
Google Earth
7 mi
N

1.0 Executive Summary

Nextgen Communications, LLC ("Nextgen") d/b/a NextGen Broadband is a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company certified by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, as an Alternative Telecommunications Utility, to provide telecommunications service in Wisconsin. Clear Lake Telephone Company, LLC ("CLT") is a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company certified by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, as an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier, to provide telecommunications in Wisconsin. Both Nextgen and CLT are 100% owned affiliates of CLT Holding, Inc., a family-owned company providing affordable service to the Clear Lake area since 1936.

Nextgen, partnering with St Croix County, and the townships of Cylon, Emerald & Erin Prairie is submitting this application for a project serving 817 locations in underserved rural areas of Cylon Township, Emerald Township and Erin Prairie Township in St Croix County Wisconsin. The project will build approximately 143 miles of last mile feeder and drop fiber optic lines to the premises. Using these new facilities, Nextgen will provide Fiber-to-the-Prem (FTTP) broadband access to 781 households and 36 business locations. All the locations in the project area are currently feed by another provider using copper-based DSL service not capable of providing reliable internet service of more than 25/3 megabits. The expansion of FTTH broadband services to this underserved area will provide subscribers a high quality and reliable broadband infrastructure to expand their educational, economic, and healthcare opportunities. With the completion of this project, residential customers and businesses will have access to the FTTH network capable of providing speeds up to 1 Gbps download / 1 Gbps upload. Internet, TV and Telephone services will be available along with any future broadband service.

St Croix County, and the townships of Cylon, Emerald & Erin Prairie understand how the benefits of FTTH can position them for tomorrow's jobs and economic growth and how access to FTTH increases the value of private property. St Croix County, and the townships of Cylon, Emerald & Erin Prairie will contribute a total of $1,138,569.00 of their American Rescue Plan Act Funding to the project and make in-kind contributions that allow the use of right of ways and no permit Fees.

2.0 Mandatory application requirements

2.1 Applicant identification and contact information

a. **The name and address of the entity applying for the grant, and the mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address of one or more contact persons representing the applicant.**

Name of Entity:	Nextgen Communications, LLC
Mailing Address:	316 3rd Ave., PO Box 47, Clear Lake, WI 54005
Telephone Number:	715-263-2755
Contact:	Tim Kusilek
E-mail Address:	tim.kusilek@nextgen-broadband.net

b. **If the application proposes a public-private partnership, the identity and contact information for all application partners.**

Name of Entity:	St Croix County
Mailing Address:	1101 Carmichael Rd. Hudson WI. 54016
Telephone Number:	715-381-4302
Contact:	Ken Witt
E-mail Address:	ken.witt@sccwi.gov

Name of Entity:	Cylon Township
Mailing Address:	2165 210th Ave. Deer Park, WI. 54007
Telephone Number:	715-554-0275
Contact:	Randy Zemke
E-mail Address:	cylonchairman@gmail.com

Name of Entity:	Emerald Township
Mailing Address:	2432 County Road G, Emerald, WI. 54013
Telephone Number:	715-977-0008
Contact:	Henery Hurtgen
E-mail Address:	townofemeraldcleark@gmail.com

Name of Entity:	Erin Prairie Township
Mailing Address:	1952 County Road G New Richmond WI. 54017
Telephone Number:	715-245-6027
Contact:	John Van Dyk
E-mail Address:	Clearck@townoferinprairie.com

c. **The application must show that the applicant is an organization, a telecommunications utility, or a city, village, town, or county that has established a legal partnership or joint venture arrangement with an otherwise qualified organization or telecommunications utility, and as such meets the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504(1).**

Nextgen Communications, LLC is a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier certified to provide telecommunications service in the State of Wisconsin pursuant to Section 19.50(2) (b) of the Wisconsin State Statute. Nextgen Communications, LLC. (PSCW Utility # 4141) Provides service to the Glenwood City Exchange.

2.2 Description of the project

a. **A map and description of the area of the state that will be affected by the proposed project.**

A map of the proposed broadband project area, A KMZ File (Nextgen_2022_FTTH_ St Croix_KMZ) of the census blocks and address within the proposed project area has been sent to the PSC e-mail address. The entire project is in rural St Croix County in Cylon, Emerald & Erin Prairie Townships.

b. **If the project area lies within a census block designated as served on the PSC Broadband Map, provide additional documentation to demonstrate the actual broadband service that is available in the proposed project area.**

Portions of the project area are designated as served on the PSC Broadband Map. The entire project area is served by another provider using copper-based DSL service that has speed capacity limitations.

c. **An explanation of how the proposed project will increase broadband access.**

The project will make available XGS-PON Fiber to the Home services capable of 1 Gbps downstream / 1 Gbps upstream to 781 households and 36 Business locations located in St Croix County, and the townships of Cylon, Emerald & Erin Prairie. XGS-PON is a 10-gigabit updated standard for Passive Optical Networks (PON) that can support higher speed 10 Gbps symmetrical data transfer. In addition, the advanced Fiber network will allow those residing in the area to telecommute and work out of their home as well as provide for an opportunity for a home-based business.

d. **A statement whether the prosed project is targeting the "last mile," "middle mile," or backbone portion of the broadband infrastructure.**

This is a last mile FTTH broadband infrastructure project using Adtran XGS-PON system.

e. **A description of the broadband service to be provided, including estimated download and upload speeds, whether the speed is based on dedicated or shared bandwidth, and the technology that will be used. This description may be illustrated by a map or schematic diagram, as appropriate.**

Nextgen will provide its broadband service exclusively using Adtran XGS-PON Technology. The fiber network is an extension of the existing Active Ethernet Fiber Network in place and serving customers in portions of the Clear Lake Telephone exchange. The network will provide each subscriber with their own dedicated fiber link to the network node, which links the local network to the Internet. XGS-PON is a 10-gigabit updated standard for Passive Optical Networks (PON) that can support higher speed 10 Gbps symmetrical data transfer. As a result, the project will offer higher broadband speeds to 100% of the total established locations in the project area.

The initial service options available to residential & business customers will be expanded over time to meet demand & market pricing.
Current offerings include:

Residential

Fiberlink100 – 100Mbps download/100Mbps upload	$79.95
Fiberlink150 – 150Mbps download/150Mbps upload	$99.95
Fiberlink1Gig – 1Gbps download/ 1Gbps upload	Request Pricing

Business

Fiberlink100 – 100Mbps download/100Mbps upload	$89.95
Fiberlink150 – 150Mbps download/150Mbps upload	$109.95
Fiberlink1Gig – 1Gbps download/ 1Gbps upload	Request Pricing

f. **A schedule by which the applicant intends to complete the components of the proposed project.**

If the grant application is approved, Clear Lake Telephone will use the following deployment schedule. The schedule is subject to change and is dependent on several factors, including delays due to weather, Acts of God, obtaining necessary permits in a timely manner, or difficulty in obtaining and deploying necessary fiber, equipment, labor and other resources needed to complete the project as scheduled.

Start	Finish	
6-1-2022	6-30-2022	Engineering & Layout
7-1-2022	11-31-2023	Construction Main Line Fiber
7-1-2022	12-1-2023	Construction Fiber Drops
11-1-2022	3-1-2023	Installations
	3-1-2023	Project Complete

2.3 Itemized Budget

a. **In addition to the Summary of Project Budget that is included as page 3, applicants should include a price list or quote for any equipment the applicant intends to purchase, including capital expenditures. The application should also indicate whether any facilities involved would be owned, rented, or leased.**

Itemized Statement of investment and construction cost on page 12 provides a summary of the construction cost for the fiber network. Nextgen employees will perform the engineering, and some construction and installation, with the balance being done by third party contractors under contract and under supervisory control of Nextgen. All of the network will be owned and managed by Nextgen.

b. **The application must show that the grant, if awarded, will not subsidize the expenses of a telecommunications provider or the monthly bills of telecommunications customers. For purposes of this grant program, subsidy means a contribution to the operating costs, including profit, of the telecommunications provider.**

The grant funds requested in this application will only be used for the cost of building a Fiber Optic Network to the Home in the project area. No grant funds will be used for monthly recurring operating cost for broadband or telecommunications services.

c. **The application must show that the grant funds requested will be used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the underserved areas covered by the application. Construction of broadband infrastructure may include any of the following:**

Nextgen agrees to demonstrate that all grant funds requested in the application have been used for the sole purpose of construction broadband infrastructure in the project area as described in this application. Nextgen will self-fund its contribution to this project's construction and equipment costs.

2.4 Priority factors supporting the application

a. **Matching funds. A description of the matching funds the applicant will invest in the proposed project, if any. For each element, indicate the type of match (cash, salary expense, or in-kind contribution). If the application is submitted by a partnership, identify the partner responsible for providing each element of the proposed matching funds.**

Matching contributions will be 67% of the total construction cost of $4,899, 976.00.

Nextgen Communications	-	$2,144,415.00
St Croix County	-	$1,090,673.00
Cylon Township	-	$1,000.00
Emerald Township	-	$10,000.00
Erin Prairie Township	-	$36,896.00
Total	-	$3,282,984.00

b. **Public-private partnerships. If the public-private partnership is memorialized in a joint venture agreement or other writing, provide a copy of that agreement. If the partnership has not been reduced to a written agreement, provide a short description of the management role, financial commitment, or other contribution to the project for each participating partner.**

St Croix County, and the townships of Cylon, Emerald & Erin Prairie will provide in-kind contribution and allow the use of the right-of-way and wave any permit fees.

- Page 13 / St Croix County Grant for the project area.
- Page 14 / Cylon township minutes
- Page 15, 16 /Emerald township minutes
- Page 17, 18 / Erin Prairie township minutes

c. **Existing broadband service. A list of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve. In scoring this element, the following factors will be taken into account:**

Frontier Communications currently serves Cylon and Erin Prairie townships portions of the project area with Copper Based – DSL Service not capable of providing speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps. to all locations. CenturyLink currently serves Emerald township portion of the project area with Copper Based – DSL Service not capable of providing speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps. to all locations. Baldwin Lightstream serves 1 business customer with a fiber connection in the project area that is an extension from their existing network. There are no other landline or fixed wireless providers in the area. Mobile Wireless is available in the area from Verizon, AT&T and T-Mobile. Even though providers may be providing some level of broadband service in the project area, the service does not meet customer needs and does not meet the FCC or State definition of broadband service of speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps. It is not known how many Copper DSL or mobile wireless customers are in the project area.

d. **Project impact. A description of the geographic area and the population, both in terms of absolute numbers and likely users, which will be served by the proposed project. Indicate the number of anticipated residential and business customers in the project area, if known.**

There are 781 households and 36 Business locations in the rural St Croix County project area that would benefit from the project. It would allow more people to work from home, enhance access to medical and public safety facilities, increase access to educational opportunities, and encourage virtual health care prospects. St Croix County recently sent a broadband survey to all people in the county and the results reflect the need for High-Speed Broadband in the county. Erin Prairie township also recently sent a broadband survey to its residents and over 50% of the

people responded to the survey and 56% (450) said they would defiantly subscribe to Broadband. 0 people responded that they definitely would not take Broadband.

e. **Scalability. A description of how the proposed project could expand or improve the broadband service it delivers, while maintaining the quality of its broadband service. This description should include specific projected increases in the following parameters that are known at the time of the application:**

The proposed project will be engineered and built to deliver dedicated fibers from a Central Hub Location to 817 locations and will be constructed using XGS-PON technology to accommodate all future residential and businesses in the project area. Services to be provided will be Broadband, with Voice, Video and Data all being broadband services. The Network is scalable. When completed all the locations in the project area and all locations in the entire townships of Cylon, Emerald & Erin Prairie will have access to FTTP Broadband service thru Nextgen or other providers.

f. **Economic development. A description of how the proposed project will promote job growth or retention, expand the property tax base or improve the overall economic vitality of the municipality or region. This description may be supplemented with a letter from one or more persons discussing the potential economic impact the project could have for that individual or business. In scoring this element, the following factors will be taken into account:**

The proposed project is likely to have a local and regional economic impact since broadband speeds will increase to levels that can readily accommodate individuals and businesses seeking to access services and products available today via the internet. The proposed project will increase the ability for customers to work from home, increase educational options, allow businesses greater access to business opportunities, increase medical access options for both patients and providers, including savings utilizing virtual health care technologies, and increase access to government programs and services. With the addition of FTTH and the project area being 57 miles from Minneapolis–Saint Paul International Airport (MSP). This makes a perfect place for anyone to work from home.

FTTH also increases the value of homes, improving the real estate market. Homes will increase in monetary value, plus having fast and reliable broadband service available will attract many potential buyers who may otherwise choose to live in a different area due to their reliance on broadband connectivity.

g. **Effect upon broadband service to adjacent areas. A description of whether the proposed project will or will not impair the ability of a broadband service provider or competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area.**

This project will not impair the ability of a service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area.

2.5 Other information supporting the application

a. **A description of applicant's history or experience constructing broadband communications facilities in the state and elsewhere.**
   - **If applicable, an applicant must comment upon the status of all prior broadband expansion grant projects that have been completed, including the type of broadband technology used, the facility route actually built or installed, the number of residential and business customers actually connected, and other relevant details of the prior project(s).**
   - **An applicant must also comment on broadband construction projects undertaken in prior years that were not funded in part by the Broadband Expansion Grant program.**

Clear Lake Telephone Company has provided communications service since it was formed in 1907. Clear Lake Telephone Company has accepted the FCC's Alternative Connect America Plan and currently has constructed approximately 270 miles of FTTP to our rural ILEC customers. Clear Lake Telephone Company is currently completing constructing a FTTH from a 2021 WI. Broadband Expansion Grant for our rural ILE customers. Nextgen Communications and Clear Lake Telephone Company have completed a 2018 WI. Broadband Expansion Grant for the Town of Forest and a 2020 WI. Broadband Expansion Grant for the village of Clear Lake. Nextgen also received a 2022 (ARPA) Broadband Access Grant for Glenwood City, Downing & Boyceville WI.

b. **A description of how the proposed project will or will not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure.**

There are no providers in the project area providing FTTP. There are no other land line mobile or fixed wireless providers providing broadband service at the required levels in the FCC definition of Broadband in the project area.

c. **A description of an applicant's financial ability to undertake the proposed broadband construction project.**

The audited financials will be made available upon request. This will show funds are available to begin construction and meet all build out milestones. Nextgen has provided communications service since it was formed in 1907. Clear Lake Telephone Company has accepted the FCC's Alternative Connect America Plan and currently has constructed approximately 270 miles of FTTP to our rural ILEC customers. Clear Lake Telephone Company is currently completing construction of a 2021 WI. Broadband Expansion Grant for our rural ILE customers Grant #:409216. Nextgen Communications and Clear Lake Telephone Company have completed a 2018 WI. Broadband Expansion Grant for the Town of Forest, Grant #:341926, a 2020 WI. Broadband Expansion Grant for the village of Clear Lake, Grant #:387739. Nextgen also received a 2022 (ARPA) Broadband Access Grant for Glenwood City, Downing & Boyceville WI., Grant #:424857.

d. **A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of individuals to access health care service from home, including any impact upon the costs of those services.**
   - **Specific information from a hospital or clinic in the project area that currently uses or intends to use home-based telemedicine equipment to enhance access health care service would best illustrate this point.**

     Westfields Hospital & Clinics and part of HealthPartners located nearby in New Richmond, WI. They offer online services which include - pay bills, make appointments, ask questions to providers, get test results, and receive personal information on-line. They also offer 24/7 on-line clinic for minor medical issues. Such services would be available to residents from home with a good broadband connection and will reduce the overall cost of healthcare.

e. **A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of students to access educational opportunities from home.**

No strategy for Internet in education can succeed without adequate infrastructure and access to resources.
The Internet can help everyone, at every stage of life, to improve their educational attainments and job opportunities.
Gigabit broadband is providing school districts with the necessary bandwidth to enable online education creating more personalized learning experiences.

f. **A description of actions taken by a city, village, town, or county in support of the grant application that have not been discussed in the context of a public-private partnership above, including but not limited to:**

St. Croix County is working to provide better access to broadband for the residents of the County. After reviewing the 2021 broadband study and hearing from residents, the County created two broadband grant programs. One to help Internet Service Providers (ISPs) expand their coverage and another to help residents in unserved or underserved areas find alternative access to quality broadband services.
Erin Prairie Township sent a broadband survey to its residents. The results are similar to the county survey with a high percentage of respondents are interested in reliable broadband

g. **Letters and messages in support of the application submitted by prospective customers, local government officials, and other interested persons.**

- Page 13 / St Croix County Grant for the project area.
- Page 14 / Cylon township minutes
- Page 15, 16 /Emerald township minutes
- Page 17, 18 / Erin Prairie township minutes
- Page 19 / St Croix County Broadband Survey results

h. **Any other equitable factor that the applicant desires to discuss, including one or more of the factors in Wis. Stat. § 196.03(6) that the applicant believes its project would advance. In discussing this element, the following information may be useful**

Preliminary investigation for a 100-megawatt photovoltaic (PV) solar electric generation facility has started in the project area. A project such as this will require reliable broadband.

	Cylon, Erin Praire & Emerald - 143 Miles 93 Miles	Cylon	Erin Praire	Emerald	Total Units	Price per unit	Total Cost
Direct Bury / 24"- 36"	Direct Bury / 4 Fiber Drop	25000	50000	100000	175000	$ 3.31	$579,250.00
Direct Bury / 48"- 60"	Direct Bury / 48 Fiber	65000	56900	57380	179280	$ 2.32	$415,929.60
	Direct Bury / 96 Fiber	48400	46000	69400	163800	$ 2.66	$435,708.00
	Direct Bury / 144 Fiber	35000	154000	18700	207700	$ 3.41	$708,257.00
	Direct Bury / 288 Fiber	0	0	0	0	$ -	$-
	Direct Bury / 576 Fiber	0	0	0	0	$ -	$-
	Direct Bury / 864 Fiber	0	0	0	0	$ -	$-
	Direct Bury / 144 & 48 Fiber	0	0	0	0	$ -	$-
	Direct Bury / 288 & 48 Fiber	0	0	26000	26000	$ 5.18	$134,680.00
	Direct Bury / 576 & 48 Fiber	0	0	0	0	$ 5.33	$-
	Direct Bury / 864 & 48 Fiber	0	0	0	0	$ -	$-
	Add 4 Fiber drop to Mainline	250	500	500	1250	$ 1.09	$1,362.50
	Add 1/2" interduct to Mainline	250	500	500	1250	$ 1.09	$1,362.50
		0	0	0	0	$ -	$-
	BFO COIL	10500	30000	50600	91100	$ 0.55	$50,105.00
Pull Fiber in Duct	Pull 4 Fiber in 1/2 inch Multi Duct	0	0	0	0	$ 1.51	$-
	Pull 48 Fiber in 1.25" Duct	2500	2700	10000	15200	$ 1.67	$25,384.00
	Pull 96 Fiber in 1.25" Duct	2700	0	2700	5400	$ 2.01	$10,854.00
	Pull 144 Fiber in 1.25" Duct	0	0	0	0	$ 2.83	$-
	Pull 288 Fiber in 2" Duct	0	0	0	0	$ 3.26	$-
	Pull 576 Fiber in 2" Duct	0	0	0	0	$ 3.49	$-
	Pull 864 Fiber in 2" Duct	0	0	0	0	$ -	$-
Directional Bore	Directional Bore w/ 1 - 1.25" Duct	0	0	0	0	$ 9.70	$-
	Directional Bore w/ 2 - 1.25" Duct	5200	2700	12700	20600	$ 12.10	$249,260.00
	Directional Bore w/ 3- 1.25" Duct	2500	5000	5000	12500	$ 13.45	$168,125.00
	Directional Bore w/ 4 - 1.25" Duct	0	0	0	0	$ 17.30	$-
	Directional Bore w/ 1 - 2" Duct	0	0	0	0	$ 10.63	$-
	Directional Bore w/1-2" & 1-1.25" Duct	0	0	0	0	$ 13.10	$-
	Directional Bore w/1-2" & 2-1.25" Duct	0	0	0	0	$ 14.55	$-
	Directional Bore w/1-2" & 3-1.25" Duct	0	0	0	0	$ 17.82	$-
	Directional Bore w/1-2" & 4-1.25" Duct	0	0	0	0	$ 20.05	$-
	Directional Bore 4 fiber Drop	500	500	0	1000	$ 8.71	$8,710.00
	Back Hoe / ft	100	100	100	300	$ 9.43	$2,829.00
	XZBHF	1	1	1	3	$ 176.40	$529.20
	BM 72 Black Top SQ FT	10	10	10	30	$ 98.00	$2,940.00
	BM 72 Concrete SQ FT	2	2	2	6	$ 110.00	$660.00
Handhole	Set Handhole / Small	50	200	200	450	$ 496.36	$223,362.00
	Set Handhole / Medium	50	100	300	450	$ 713.64	$321,138.00
	Set Handhole / Large	5	2	6	13	$ 1,610.00	$20,930.00
	Enter Handhole	2	2	2	6	$ 150.00	$900.00
	18" Flower Pot w/ Multi Duct	10	10	10	30	$ 155.00	$4,650.00
		0	0	0	0	$ -	$-
	C & D Splice Case Install & Splice	105	300	506	911	$ 675.00	$614,925.00
	Misc Splicing	0	0	0	0	$ -	$-
Misc.	NID / Housing, Cane, Mount, Splice	75	200	200	475	$ 125.00	$59,375.00
	Adtran XGS-PON Ports	100	250	450	800	$ 350.00	$280,000.00
	Misc.	0	0	0	0	$ -	$-
	Install, ONT 2 Hours Labor x 70	75	200	200	475	$ 250.00	$118,750.00
	Engineering.	1	1	1	3	$ 80,000.00	$240,000.00
	5% Budget Increase	1	0	0	1	$ 220,000.00	$220,000.00
	Total Project						$4,899,975.80

ST. CROIX COUNTY Wisconsin
Innovation Through Cooperation

February 22, 2022

Nextgen Broadband
Attn: Tim Kusilek
Clear Lake Telephone Co.
316 3rd Ave
Clear Lake, WI 54005

RE: St. Croix County Broadband Grant Award

The St. Croix County Broadband Committee has approved your grant request.

- Town of Cylon project for $245,688.75
- Town of Emerald project for $414,028.50
- Town of Erin Prairie project for $430,956.25

The St. Croix County grant is contingent on your organization becoming an ACP qualified provider prior to grant disbursement. All grant projects must be constructed by the end of 2024, though an extension is possible under extraordinary circumstances. The grant is a reimbursement grant after the project is constructed.

St. Croix County looks forward to partnering with you on this project and encourages you to apply for additional project funding if available. Please keep us posted on the status of your project.

Respectfully,

Ken Witt

Ken Witt
County Administrator

Minutes – Town of Cylon
Wednesday March 09, 2022
Cylon – Deer Park Community Center

The regular monthly meeting of the Cylon Town Board was called to order by Chair Zemke. Present was supervisor's Derrick and Erickson, Treasurer Jane Messer and Clerk Jack Barker. **The following bills and vouchers were approved and paid**:

SCC Treasurer/HWY	4,183.85	Phyllis Ness	201.50
Randy Zemke Exp	368.50	Randy Zemke	1,847.00
Deer Park Fire 22-03	766.00	Jane Messer	1,847.00
Dennis Erickson	80.00	Dennis Erickson	692.62
Waterman Sanitation	5,252.00	Kevin Derrick	692.62
Jack Barker Exp	150.00	Jack Barker	2,308.50
Morgan Olson	35.75	Dept of Trea (941)	908.44
Rene Boe	247.50	ICCPA	135.67
Deborah Wildeisen	208.00	SCC Treasurer	35.00
Jack Barker Elect Exp	273.58	Jane Messer Exp	626.08

TOTAL $20,859.61

Derrick/Erickson - motion and 2nd to approve bills as presented. Motion carried

Clerk's minutes of February 09,2022 approved by motion Erickson Derrick 2nd – motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report was approved on motion by Erickson Derrick 2nd, Motion carried.

Tax Account	104,580.52		
Tax Account	2,147.85		
Dog Tags	25.00		
Don Arvold P/T	48.95		
Total Deposit	106,802.32		
Feb WCU General Checking Balance		145,715.75	
Feb WCU General Savings Balance		5.00	
Feb WCU A Money MKT ccount		133,943.24	
Feb WCU Tax Checkir	56,489.20		
Feb RCU Savings	5.00		

Next Town Board Meeting scheduled for April 13 at 07:00pm

Upcoming meetings presentations – NextGen Fiber Optic Tim Kusilek presentation on fiber service development plan and the Town's ability to support development funds. Motion by Erickson,2nd by Derrick to donate $1000 from ARPA funds to NexGen for fiberoptic development.

Presentations Discussions: Leeward Energy Solar Project- Reference Web site **Fire Department**: N/A

Licenses: **Building Inspector/Assessor** – **Elections –** February 15, and April 05,'22

Community Center - Waste Management-

Land Management/ Zoning - Highway Department- $4183.85 2-Invoices

Clerk: Clerk directed by Board to develop/mail information card to residents, to direct comments on Solar panel development within the Township before the next meeting. Motion by Derrick ,2nd by Erickson, Motion passed

Motion to Adjourn: by Derrick Erickson 2nd - Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm

Submitted by Jack Barker, Cylon Town Clerk

TOWN OF ERIN PRAIRIE
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022

The Town of Erin Prairie February 21, 2022 Board Meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m. by Chairman John Van Dyk at the Erin Prairie Town Hall. Present were Board members John Van Dyk, Mike Monteith, and Dennis Mitchell.

.A motion was made by Mike to accept the agenda as presented. Dennis seconded the motion which passed by affirmative vote.

Dennis moved to approve the January meeting minutes as written. Mike seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

It was reported there is $134,379.11 available in our checking and Money Market Accounts at this time. $36,896.00 is ARPA grant money we received that can only be used for certain things specified by the state. The bills were presented. John mentioned that we can submit a bill to the New Richmond and Baldwin School Districts for payment of the election officials that worked the February 15 Primary Election. The School Board election was the only item on the primary ballot.

After the bills were reviewed Dennis moved to approve the treasurer's report and pay the bills as presented. Mike seconded the motion, which passed by affirmative vote.

Tim Kusilek, representative from Next Gen Broadband, was present to update the board on the Broadband Grant Application. Tim mentioned that the County Board awarded our township $430,925.00 of the $3 million they had received. Their grant money was split between nine projects. The $430,925.00 is about 25% of the estimated 1.7 million dollar project cost to expand broadband across our township. Next Gen is estimating it will cost about $30,000.00 per mile. Approximately 248 homes/businesses will be served in Erin Prairie through this project. Next Gen Broadband will now apply for a state grant that will be awarded later this spring.

After discussion Dennis made a motion to commit the $36,896.00 of our ARPA Money to this Next Gen Broadband Project. Mike seconded the motion which passed by affirmative vote.

John briefly mentioned a few updates about the Baldwin Ambulance and the New Richmond and United Fire Departments from the meetings he had attended.

The St. Croix County Highway Department requested a rough estimate of the work our township would like completed this year so they can plan their workload. The Board reviewed the items listed including blacktopping (½ mile), adding gravel base, seal coating, crack filling, AMZ patching, mowing, and spraying.

The Wisconsin Election Commission has strongly recommended that municipalities switch to a .gov domain for email security. It is not required at this time, but the commission has said there will likely come a time when a .gov domain will be required. The policy has not been formalized or a date set yet when it will be required. The Wisconsin Elections Commission has announced that a grant is available for all municipalities to change over to a .gov domain. The Commission will reimburse expenses for the change up to $600.00 per municipality. A motion was made by Mike to change the Town of Erin Prairie official e-mail to a .gov domain and to apply for the grant to cover the expenses accrued by the change. Dennis seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mike mentioned that he spoke with Darel Hall, our animal Humane Officer, about Pitstop Impound, located in New Richmond. Darel had asked our township to sign an agreement with them so he could take dogs picked up in our township to Pitstop. Darel Hall does not have state certified housing to keep animals overnight. Darel has started working with Pitstop to house dogs when needed. The Board is concerned that the township could end up paying fees for animals housed there if the owner is not found. The only alternative would be to have the Board members pick up stray animals, however, then there are other issues with that. A motion was made by Dennis to sign the agreement with Pitstop

to house animals picked up by Darel when needed. Mike seconded the motion, which passed by affirmative vote.

The next meeting will be held Monday, March 21 at 6:00p.m.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Mitchell

Jackie Mitchell, Clerk/Treasurer

Chairman Hurtgen called the monthly meeting of the Emerald Town Board to order at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9, 2022. Present for the meeting were Chairman Henry Hurtgen, Supervisors Francis Klatt and Tom Wink, Clerk Lorelei Wink and Treasurer Cheryl Slind.

Approve Agenda

Motion to approve agenda by Francis Klatt; 2nd by Henry Hurtgen. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion by Henry Hurtgen to approve January 2022 minutes, 2nd by Tom Wink. Motion carried unanimously.

Plan Commission Report of Last Meeting- None

Land Issues/Surveys- None

Financial Report by Treasurer

Balance as of 1/01/2021	**$ 252,334.57**
Receipts FBB Money Market	$ 604,522.50
Receipts FBB Checking	$ 280,300.00
Disbursements FBB Money Market	($ 280,324.00)
Disbursements FBB Checking	($ 279,625.62)
Balance as of 1/31/2021	**$ 577,207.45**

Patrolman's Report-

Donan reported that there were more issues with the tractor and has had it in for repairs. He guesses that the cost will be around $4500.00.

Public Input-

Ginny Drath reported that nitrates were down 1 point from December to January.

Board Announcements -None

Discussion and Possible Action Items:

A. There was discussion regarding ARPA monies and upcoming projects. This was tabled and will watch for future updates.

B. See A above.

C. Grant for Broadband- Brett Anderson, a Representative for NextGen Broadband was present to update about a grant that is available for broadband. After discussion, a motion was made by Henry Hurtgen to approve a $10,000 donation out of the ARPA money to NextGen for the broadband project; 2nd by Francis Klatt. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Comprehensive Plan Update-Donan will talk to John Hilgers to get answers to the following questions;

   a. Do we have to do this?
   b. What is the benefit to the town to do this?
   c. What would we have to do on our own?

This will be tabled until the March meeting.

Approve Payables:

Motion to approve payables made by Henry Hurtgen, 2nd by Francis Klatt. Motion carried unanimously.

Set Meeting Date/Agenda for Next Month

Board meeting at 6:30 pm on March 9, 2022

Adjourn Meeting

Motion by Tom Wink to adjourn; 2nd Francis Klatt. Motion carried unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

_____

Lorelei Wink, Clerk

Draft: February 15, 2022

Minutes approved: _____
With Corrections: _____ Without Corrections: _____

ST. CROIX COUNTY RESIDENTIAL SURVEY RESULTS

During the Summer of 2021, a broadband survey was conducted in St. Croix county as part of a County wide study on broadband needs. The online (Web) version of the survey was publicized on social media, the County website, and a postal service mailing to all households. Residents were encouraged to complete the survey online or fill out and return the paper version by postal mail. Businesses were encouraged to complete a separate business-focused survey, and the results of that are included later in this report.

A total of 5,465 responses were collected in the residential survey–a 16% response rate, which is considered extremely good. Not all responders answered every question. Note that because of rounding, not all percentages sum exactly to 100%. Many comments were received.

Some of the key findings from the results are listed below.

90% of respondents are interested in faster and more reliable Internet service

52% of residents are "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied" with current Internet speeds

94% of respondents said that they believe the County government should help facilitate better broadband

85% of residents have 5 or more Internet-connected devices in their home

68% of respondents report they have trouble using common Internet services

40% indicate that availability of broadband Internet is affecting where they choose to live